

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /065 W

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R 271027Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0211

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 1504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN, ID, MY, SN, RP, TH, VS, VN

SUBJECT: INDONESIANS' VIEW OF ASEAN AND SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: A. JAKARTA 637; B. BANGKOK 880

SUMMARY: LIM BIAN KIE (YUSUF WANANDI) (REFTELS) CALLED ON THE DCM JANUARY 25 AND THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR JANUARY 27. WE GAVE HIM OUR VIEWS OF THE THAI DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE STABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT WILL EMERGE FROM THE JANUARY 26 ELECTIONS. LIM DISCUSSED ASEAN AND THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE SITUATION. HE PLANS TO VISIT SAIGON, HONG KONG, AND MANILA BEFORE RETURNING TO JAKARTA. END SUMMARY.

1. LIM SAID THAT THE ASEAN COUNTRIES HAD BEEN WORKING FIVE YEARS TO SHAPE THEIR ORGANIZATION. IT STILL LACKED SOLIDITY BUT WAS EVOLVING INTO PERMANENT FORM. HE DECRIED THE ROVING SECRETARIAT, WHICH IN HIS VIEW DOES LITTLE MORE THAN DRINK WHISKEY EVERY THREE MONTHS IN A DIFFERENT ASEAN CAPITAL. HE PREDICTED  
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THAT A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT WOULD BE SET UP IN JAKARTA DURING

THE SUMMER OF 1975. HE WAS ALSO OPTIMISTIC THAT SOLUTIONS MIGHT BE FOUND TO THE MINDANAO REBELLION AND THE SABAH CLAIM BY THAT TIME. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ASEAN HAD TO DEMONSTRATE ITS WORTH BY SOLVING REGIONAL PROBLEMS ON ITS OWN.

2. LIM SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS WERE GETTING OVER THEIR SUSPICION THAT INDONESIA WANTED TO DOMINATE THE ASSOCIATION, HE MENTIONED THAT THE COUNTRY INDONESIA KNOWS LEAST ABOUT IN THE ASEAN COMMUNITY IS THAILAND. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS IGNORANCE TO THE LACK OF INDONESIAN DIPLOMATIC AND ACADEMIC EXPERTS ON THAILAND. THE DCM POINTED OUT THAT ONE RARELY READS ABOUT INDONESIA IN THE THAI PRESS, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE FREQUENT ARTICLES ABOUT WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES OF LESSER IMPORTANCE TO THAILAND. HE SUGGESTED THAT AN INDONESIAN CORRESPONDENT BE STATIONED IN THAILAND WHO COULD FEED STORIES TO ANTARA AND THAT WAYS BE FOUND TO INCREASE COVERAGE OF INDONESIAN AFFAIRS IN THE THAI PRESS.

3. WE ASKED ABOUT THE ADDITION OF OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN STATES TO THE ASEAN COMMUNITY. LIM SAID THAT THE CURRENT FIVE MEMBERS HAD TO GET THEIR HOUSE IN ORDER FIRST, BUT THAT HE EXPECTED THE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES WOULD BE THE NEXT TO JOIN ALTHOUGH NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HE SAID THAT BURMA WAS EAGER TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH ASEAN, BUT WOULD NOT BECOME A MEMBER UNTIL THERE WERE NO LONGER AMERICAN BASES IN THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES. HE NOTED THAT REMOVAL OF THE BASES WAS NOT A CURRENT PROSPECT.

4. LIM SAID THAT HE HAD VISITED SOUTH VIETNAM ALMOST YEARLY SINCE 1968, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT BEEN THERE SINCE 1972. HE POINTED OUT THAT INDONESIAN DIPLOMATS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ICCS, TRADITIONALLY HAD A MUCH MORE PESSIMISTIC OUTLOOK ABOUT SOUTH VIETNAM'S SURVIVABILITY THAN MEMBERS OF THE INDONESIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, WHICH LIM'S CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES HELPED ESTABLISH IN SAIGON IN 1971. HE SAID THAT THE RECENT MANILA MEETING OF INDONESIAN AMBASSADORS TO SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES HAD TAKEN UP THE ISSUE OF WITHDRAWAL OF THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION TO THE ICCS FROM VIETNAM, BUT HE BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD STAY ON LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE VIEWS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. HE CLAIMED THAT INSTITUTION

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WAS IN MUCH CLOSER CONTACT WITH THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE THAN INDONESIAN DIPLOMATS OR THE ICCS.

5. COMMENT: LIM'S COMMENTS INDICATE THAT MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE, AS REFLECTED IN OTHER REPORTING, ARE ON A DIFFERENT ASEAN WAVE LENGTH FROM THE INDONESIANS, FILIPINOS, AND THE THAI. THE LATTER THREE APPARENTLY FAVOR A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT, BUT

MID-1975 MAY BE TOO EARLY AN ESTIMATE FOR ITS FORMATION.  
KINTNER

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## Message Attributes

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